BENGALURU, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

# Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 36 | Min 22 | Humidity 23% Mostly Sunny Sensex 73,738 | Nifty 22,368 | Gold 70,950 | Silver 80,636 | Dollar 83.29 | Euro 89.19 | GBP 103.75

## In Whitefield's Ambedkar Nagar, where 4 of 5 borewells dried up, private entity sinking another one risking supply

# HEALTH & WELL-NESS

### 'Bengaluru a notified red zone; no permissions can be granted'

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and Karnataka Ground Water Authority (KGWA) giving permission for digging a borewell without verification is now commonplace across the city. It has also become a routine for the BWSSB engineers to rush to specific spots, after receiving complaints from neighbours or social activists, to stop the sinking of the borewell.

The borewell digging menace has been haunting the residents, those depending on the existing borewells for water at Ambedkar Nagar in Whitefield. There are around 200 dwellings at Ambedkar Nagar. There were five borewells but four of them dried up. The residents' only chance is the existing borewell which they are all dependent on for water supply this summer.

"I do not know how the BWSSB or KGWA gave permission for drilling a borewell at a vacant site where a multi-storied building is expected to be built. If the borewell on the vacant site is dug deeper than the existing borewell, the residents

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

FARUQKHAN1990/PEXELS

**"This is a clear case where rogue builders are manipulating or corrupting the authorities to misuse groundwater for construction and commercial purposes violating the laws**

— Sandeep Anirudhan, coordinator - subcommittee - illegalities and violations, Whitefield Citizens Ward Committees

## 'Inflammatory speeches have wide social impact'

Modi speech: 'It is imperative election commission takes swift and appropriate action', delegation tells state's chief electoral officer

| Rachana Ramesh
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A delegation of around 20 activists and concerned citizens representing over 15 human rights organisations met the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Karnataka to file a complaint against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his speech in Rajasthan.

The delegation met with the CEO to hand over a complaint, a copy of the Preamble of the Constitution and the Model Code of Conduct. They demanded that in compliance with laws and guidelines, the Election Commission of India (ECI) must take immediate action to disqualify Narendra Modi and ban his election campaign. They also demanded that an FIR be immediately registered against Modi, invoking penal provisions regarding hate speech and disrupting communal harmony.

Manoj Kumar Meena, the CEO of Karnataka informed the delegation that he can only forward the memorandums and complaints to the ECI, as further action does not fall within his jurisdiction. Upon being told that such hate speeches have ripple effects in the local contexts, with BJP leaders and candidates also inciting hatred against Muslims, he said, "We are taking action and filing FIRs whenever there is hate speech. It is not in my power to bar any candidate from campaigning. We have also not issued notices to political parties

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

**Festive flames**

Karpoora pooja was performed in front of the Dharmaraya Swamy temple in Bengaluru in view of celebrating Karaga Shaktyotsava in the early hours on Tuesday. Devotees burn camphor in front of the temple and on the streets as part of the ritual performed during Karaga Day

# Students act as catalysts for transforming water dynamics

## 630 Jalshalas conducted till now, 14,000 Jaldoots use the chatbot

BM Education

| Sridhar Vivan
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The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is encouraging students to become 'Jaldoots' for driving significant social and environmental change. Officials said that the involvement of students serves a dual purpose: it educates them on crucial water-related issues and empowers them to be change agents in their communities. Such a journey transforms them, instilling a deep sense of responsibility towards water conservation and equipping them with the knowledge to lead by example.

### Community engagement through students

An official said that one of the most compelling reasons for involving students is their ability to influence community behaviours, as young voices are powerful; they inspire change and mobilise communities towards collective action. Students act as messengers, carrying the critical message of water conservation from the corridors of their schools to the wider community. Their enthusiasm and genuine concern often resonate with people, encouraging households to adopt more sustainable practices.

"The programme aims to create student champions who will provide an assessment of the state of Piped Water Supply Schemes (PWSS) in their locality, among other activities like being ambassadors of safe drinking water, water quality, water conservation, community participation, water sanitation and hygiene, and likewise. After completion, the students are expected to play the role of "Jaldoot," initiating advocacy on safe practices among the community at different levels, such as their own household, school, neighbourhood, among friends, and society, and disseminating their learning from the programme. Each student nominated as Jaldoot is registered and engaged through a WhatsApp chatbot called "Jaldoot Bot," said the official, adding that, as of date, 630 Jalshalas have been conducted, wherein more than 24,000 students have participated, and nearly 14,000 Jaldoots are using the chatbot.

File photo of a student holding water conservation banner

The officials further said that the Jaldoots perform a set of 24 activities in a gamified format specially curated in the DISS (Discover, Investigate, Solve, Share) framework. The scores obtained by them for the successful completion of activities nudged by the bot are reflected on a dynamic scorecard called Jaldoot Leaderboard. All Jaldoots, teachers, trainers, and other stakeholders can view the updates as posted on the leaderboard from time to time within the comprehensive dashboard. Their achievements are also featured on the changemaker profile, underscoring the positive changes brought about by their dedicated efforts.

The CBSE circular said that extending this programme across India's diverse landscapes promises a manifold increase in its benefits. Every district across the nation, with its unique environmental challenges and cultural backdrop, stands to gain from the fresh wave of enthusiasm and innovation brought in by the young students. This nationwide movement could significantly bolster India's efforts towards sustainable water use, environmental conservation, and climate resilience. "Moreover, participation in initiatives like this particular one enriches the educational experience of the young population. It provides students with a practical application of their theoretical knowledge, bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world challenges. This holistic approach to education nurtures critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and a sense of responsibility towards societal issues," added an official.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Saraswathamma W/o Late Dasappa residing at No.2107, Devanga Beedi, Nelamangala Town, Nelamangala, Bangalore Rural District-562123, stating that, my name is Saraswathamma. But my name (spelling) wrongly mentioned in pensions record as Sarasatwamma. So, i have changed my name from Sarasatwamma to Saraswathamma. Both the above names are Sarasatwamma & Saraswathamma pertains to one person only and that mine only. All the above information is correct and true. Therefore, I have sworn before Notary and Advocate V.Rangaramu, Bangalore vide affidavit dated 20.04.2024.

## 3 THINGS TO DO

### 01 Poetry open mic

Spend a lovely evening celebrating the beauty in the everyday with an English-language poetry open-mic on the theme of love, "Let Poetry Be," hosted by Neha Kirpalani. Witness this multi-hyphenate in action as she shares her unique and varied insights, adding depth to her verses and crafting meaningful conversations across boundaries.. **When: April 26, 5:30 pm**
**Where: Atta Galatta**

### 02 Photo exhibit

The Raja Ravi Varma Heritage Foundation presents "Daughter of Providence," a first-of-its-kind exhibition showcasing one of his most charming paintings—a hitherto unseen work from the Travancore royal collection—on the occasion of his 176th birth anniversary. This exhibition celebrates the life and work of his eldest granddaughter, Maharani Sethu Lakshmi Bayi (1895–1985), the last ruling queen of Travancore and one of twentieth-century India's most iconic women. **When: April 29 to May 30**
**Where: Raja Ravi Varma Heritage Foundation, Lavelle Road**

### 03 Discover your voice

Unleash the power of your voice in a transformative vocal workshop designed to help you find your unique sound and master the basics of singing. From understanding vocal techniques like vibrato and breath control to adding dynamics and expression to your performance, this workshop is your gateway to becoming a confident and expressive singer both on and off the stage. **When: April 27 to May 18; Where: My School of Rock**

# Miller's Road stretch turns urinal

## Commuters, especially women, also complain area has become unsafer as it is hangout spot of catcallers

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Stench of urine and sight of an overflowing manhole greet commuters every day on the busy stretch of Miller's Road, one of the major stretches that were recently constructed by Bengaluru Smart City Limited (BSCL).

Residents using the stretch for daily commutes say the road has deteriorated drastically after it was claimed to be completed by BSCL. Many rued the fact that the stretch has become a camping and parking site for auto and cab drivers, who do not shy away from urinating in the open and passing comments on women pedestrians.

A resident and regular commuter told BM, "Part of Miller's Road has turned into a giant urinal after construction work began. The building under construction encroached footpath to store construction material and slowly it turned into a spot for people to urinate. The stench is too overwhelming to walk. The spot is very close to United Theological C, one of the most prestigious institutions in the city.

Commuters on the stretch also raise safety concerns. According to a female resident of the area, a portion of the stretch in the late evening is occupied by auto drivers and cab drivers, who are parked there the whole night and use it as a toilet.

"I go to that part of the stretch every evening to feed a stray dog that has not been keeping well. However, the callousness of these drivers is outrageous as they do not mind my presence and use the compound wall of the under-construction building to urinate. It does not feel safe to walk at night and the stench is unbearable," said the resident.

Locals say while they have tried to reach out to BSCL officials on multiple occasions, they have not succeeded.

"After doing a shoddy job and shrugging off the responsibility to maintain the stretch, BSCL officials have been unreachable. I have tried to apprise them of these issues on multiple occasions, but there has been no response. We care about the city and want the issues to be resolved, but there is no way out with BSCL," said another resident.

Residents also complain of an increase in mosquitoes in the area due to the overflowing manhole.

When BM reached out to BSCL officials, they confirmed that maintenance of Smart City roads is the responsibility of BSCL.

"We are managing all Smart City roads in the city and ensuring they are in good condition. As far as the overflowing manhole on Miller's Road is concerned, it has to be attended by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB). The water line in the area has to be jetted. This problem had cropped up a few months ago as well and BSCL resolved it along with BWSSB then.

However, it has repeated. Regarding footpath encroachment and damaged landscaping, we will take strict action against the owner of the building under construction. The owner will be served with a notice soon," said the official.

# High Court order safeguarding bike taxi operators 'welcome'

The High Court of Karnataka issued an order to safeguard the rights of bike taxi operators amidst violence at the hands of some groups that have opposed them. The HC has ordered the state government to take action against perpetrators of such violence.

Off late, Bengaluru has been seeing a rise in attacks on bike taxi operators which is a danger to their safe operation in the city. The groups have been opposing the bike taxi operations questioning the legality of operations. Bike taxi associations have been claiming that the state has not been effective in protecting their livelihood despite the HC order permitting them to operate in the city.

The High Court direction safeguards their livelihood. The court has directed the state government to 'take appropriate action against any person in the event they unlawfully obstruct the petitioners from operating the services of bike taxis '.

The writ petition was filed by the Bike Taxi Welfare Association under Articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution of India. The petition was filed in the context of obstruction, stoppage, harassing and/or physically abusing and causing violence to bike taxi operators across the city.

In the order, the court observed that despite the interim order passed in 2021 preventing any coercive action against bike taxi operators, the police are not taking action against groups who are unlawfully obstructing and assaulting bike taxi riders from operating their service. The State is under obligation to take appropriate action against any individual or organisation that indulges in unlawful activities and is duty bound to act on the complaint if the petitioners file a complaint, stated the HC order.

Rejoicing over the HC order, the President of the Bike Taxi Welfare Association, Adi Narayanan told BM, "For the past few months, there have been too many attacks on bike taxis. There has been no action from the Transport Department, traffic police and law and order police department.

In this regard, we had petitioned the Karnataka High Court. The verdict safeguards the life of bike taxi operators."

**—Melvin Mathew**

# Rowdies on the run now in custody

The Central Crime Branch police apprehended a notorious rowdy sheeter with a record of 42 cases, including extortion and theft, on Tuesday. Asif, notorious in the Banaswadi area, had been evading authorities for some time. His criminal history spans multiple districts, with cases not only in Karnataka but also in Goa. Following his arrest, the police seized 12 mobile phones, gold coins, and bullets. There are pending warrants against Asif. Despite an attempt to escape, the police captured him on Armstrong Road under Bharathi Nagar police station, where he is undergoing interrogation.

In another case, Shivajinagar Police apprehended a notorious criminal who had been evading capture for four years. Upon his arrest, authorities seized a motorcycle and dangerous weapons. Probe revealed that the suspect was involved in 17 criminal cases.

**BMB**

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# Fire guts 12 acres of BRT Reserve

## Minor fire brought under control in 2 hours, but forest department points to sabotage again

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The BRT Tiger Reserve's tryst with forest fire this summer continues as the reserve recorded yet another fire incident on Saturday. According to officials from Karnataka Forest Department (KFD), the fire has gutted a little over 12 acres of area on a hillock in Bylur wildlife range of BRT Tiger Reserve.

"The fire was on top of the hillock and was not major. It was restricted to the ground and brought under control within a couple of hours. There has been no biodiversity or habitat loss," said BRT Tiger Reserve DCF and Director, Deepa J Contractor. The repeated and deliberate act of setting the forest land on fire so far has destroyed acres of forest land in BRT in this fire season alone.

Wildlife conservationists and activists in the area say these incidents are sabotage and an act of revenge by disgruntled villagers, probably KFD on ground staff and those in illegal possession of forest land.

"BRT administration works towards winning the confidence of locals. While some activities in this direction are happening, more needs to be done. Some higher officials are not willing to meet locals, leading to disgruntled villagers and frequent fire incidents. For instance, officials at Bandipur have managed the situation with locals well leading to fewer fire incidents. But the majority of these incidents are sabotage and acts of revenge by those who are in illegal possession of forest land," said Joseph Hoover, former State Board of Wildlife member and founder of the United Conservation Movement and Charitable Trust.

> **"The fire was not major. It was brought under control within a couple of hours. There has been no biodiversity or habitat loss**
>
> – Deepa J Contractor, DCF and Director of BRT Tiger Reserve

File photo of a fire in the BR Hills that broke out in March this year

However, BRT officials say it is a unique reserve and thus situation is different compared to other tiger reserves in the state.

"BRT is unique because of the presence of 16,000 people living inside the reserve. Moreover, this year there has been exceptional due to the unprecedented dry season. We have not received rain since December, allowing miscreants to put fire repeatedly. There is a lot of fuel on forest flood leading to fire being triggered even due to smallest of spark," added Contractor. Officials say a large number of repeated fire incidents are deliberately done by those who are in illegal possession of forest land. Notably, there has been an ongoing Lokayukta case since 2016 to clear the dispute over land ownership and to establish a forest area in BR Hills.

A survey conducted to ascertain the same has recently been completed and notices have been sent to illegal grantees. Officials say the number of fire incidents has gone up since.

"These illegal grantees are well-connected people who are trying to change the map. When the department has refused to give in to the pressure, they have resorted to setting forest areas on fire. Notices to claim 150 acres of forest land, based on the outcome of a survey conducted by the Forest Department in association with the Revenue Department, have been sent recently and fire incidents have picked up after that," informed Contractor.

**NOTICE** kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

**LOCKER NO; 51/R10/245**

Locker hired by Ms. Satya Priya Gupta having address at No. 16, 2nd Floor, D M Street, Ulsoor, Bengaluru - 560008, with the M.G. Road branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., situated at #22, Ground floor, M.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560001, and the locker has not been for the past seven years. Both letters sent to Ms. Satya Priya Gupta calling upon them to operate the locker have returned unserved and they are not contactable. It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if the said locker is not operated by Ms. Satya Priya Gupta within 3 months from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on 24th July, 2024.

**NOTICE** kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

**LOCKER NO; 32/R6/0081**

Locker hired by M/S. Lakshmi Sathyanarayana Temple Trust having address at 27 1, C O K, Chellappa, Snt Street, Ulsoor, Bengaluru - 560008, with the M.G. Road branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., situated at #22, Ground floor, M.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560001, and the locker has not been for the past seven years. Both letters sent to M/S Lakshmi Sathyanarayana Temple Trust calling upon them to operate the locker have returned unserved and they are not contactable. It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if the said locker is not operated by M/S Lakshmi Sathyanarayana Temple Trust within 3 months from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on 24th July, 2024.

**NOTICE** kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

**LOCKER NO; 32/R7/0118**

Locker hired by Ms. Shobha Reddy W/o Jayaram Reddy, having address at 1110, 13 Cross CMH Road, Indiranagar, Bengaluru - 560038, with the M.G. Road branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., situated at #22, Ground floor, M.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560001, and the locker has not been for the past seven years. Both letters sent to Ms. Shobha Reddy calling upon them to operate the locker have returned unserved and they are not contactable. It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if the said locker is not operated by Ms. Shobha Reddy within 3 months from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on 24th July, 2024.

**LOCKER NO 54** **NOTICE** kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

Locker hired by M Sreenivas & K Nirmala having address at No. 2, Mangammanapalya Madivala Post, Bengaluru – 560068, Karnataka, India, with the Bommanahalli Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., situated at 220/3/54, Siddappa Compound, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru - 560068, has remained non-operational for the past 4 years. Both the letters sent to M Sreenivas & K Nirmala calling upon them to operate the locker, have returned unserved and they are not contactable. It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if the said locker is not operated by M Sreenivas & K Nirmala within 3 months from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on 24th July 2024.

**LOCKER NO 65** **NOTICE** kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

Locker hired by Jabbar Khan & Abida J Khan having address at House No. 332, Behind Cambridge School, Bommanahalli Extn Madiwala, Bengaluru – 560068, Karnataka, India, with the Bommanahalli Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., situated at No. 220/3/54, Siddappa Compound, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru - 560068, has remained non-operational for the past 4 years. Both the letters sent to Jabbar Khan & Abida J Khan calling upon them to operate the locker, have returned unserved and they are not contactable. It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if the said locker is not operated by Jabbar Khan & Abida J Khan within 3 months from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on 24th July 2024.

**LOCKER NO 82** **NOTICE** kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

Locker hired by G Narendra Babu & Sharadamma having address at No. 9, Sri Hari Nilaya, Roopena Agrahara Madivala, Near Bommanahalli Police Station, Bengaluru – 560068, Karnataka, India, with the Bommanahalli Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., situated at No. 220/3/54, Siddappa Compound, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru - 560068, has remained non-operational for the past 4 years. Both the letters sent to G Narendra Babu & Sharadamma calling upon them to operate the locker, have returned unserved and they are not contactable. It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if the said locker is not operated by G Narendra Babu & Sharadamma within 3 months from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on 24th July 2024.

**LOCKER NO 111** **NOTICE** kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

Locker hired by M Suresh Reddy having address at Plot No. 39, 8th Main, 7th Cross, Mico Layout Btm, 2nd Stage, Bengaluru – 560076, Karnataka, India, with the Bommanahalli Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., situated at No. 220/3/54, Siddappa Compound, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru - 560068, has remained non-operational for the past 4 years. Both the letters sent to M Suresh Reddy calling upon them to operate the locker, have returned unserved and they are not contactable. It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if the said locker is not operated by M Suresh Reddy within 3 months from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on 24th July 2024.

**LOCKER NO 101** **NOTICE** kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

Locker hired by B M Madhusudan having address at No. 102-2-0, Sarakki Agrahara, JP Nagar, Bengaluru – 560078, Karnataka, India, with the Bommanahalli Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., situated at No. 220/3/54, Siddappa Compound, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru - 560068, has remained non-operational for the past 4 years. All 2 letters sent to B M Madhusudan calling upon them to operate the locker, have returned unserved and they are not contactable. It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if the said locker is not operated by B M Madhusudan within 3 months from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on 24th July 2024.

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# 1.01 cr eligible voters in city: Now, all must turn up

## Bengaluru ready to participate in voting, but its poor past record creates anxiety

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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

As Bengaluru readies for Lok Sabha polls scheduled for April 26, the city has 1,01,27,869 voters eligible to exercise their franchise. However, as Bengaluru in the past had poor voter turnout, awareness is being created for maximum number of people to turn up this time. Among this vast electorate, 31,173 are voters with special needs, 1,60,232 are young voters, 1,665 are service voters, and 2,158 are NRIs.

### Ensuring fairness

There will be stringent security measures and logistical arrangements. District Election Officer and BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said, "A total of 102 check posts have been strategically set up across the city to monitor and regulate movement during the polling period. Each assembly segment, corresponding to different Lok Sabha constituencies, will host 28 polling centres to accommodate the sizable voter base. Within the Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits, a network of 8,984 polling booths has been established. Of these, 2,003 booths have been classified as critical, 253 as vulnerable, and 30 as expenditure-sensitive, necessitating heightened vigilance and oversight. Furthermore, webcasting facilities will be operational at 4,492 polling booths, ensuring transparency and accountability in the electoral process."

Officials work inside the monitoring room setup for the second phase of India's general election at the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, in Bengaluru on Tuesday

Around 305 micro observers will be stationed strategically to monitor proceedings and address any irregularities promptly. Additionally, to maintain law and order and ensure the safety of voters and polling officials, a formidable security contingent has been mobilized. This includes 11,793 personnel from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) assigned to sensitive and hyper-sensitive polling booths. Bengaluru will witness a robust police presence comprising 53 Assistant Commissioners of Police (ACPs), 737 Police Sub-Inspectors (PSIs), 902 Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs), 3,555 Sub-Inspectors (SIs), 3,352 police constables, 3,919 Home Guards, 500 civil defense personnel, 32 forest guards, 44 armed units, and 11 central police units. This comprehensive security apparatus aims to uphold the sanctity of the electoral process and ensure that voters can cast their ballots without any disruptions or threats to their safety.

### Facilitating voters

Meanwhile, voter facilitation centres (VFC) have been established for voters engaged in election duty within the assembly constituencies falling under the respective Lok Sabha constituencies. These voters are permitted to cast their votes until April 25. During their training, voters engaged in election duty who had submitted their applications through Form 12 and were approved by the District Election Officers for the second stage of voting were initially allowed until April 22. However, an extension of three days has been granted for these voters.

Officials said that in this Lok Sabha election, postal ballot papers will not be dispatched by post. Officials engaged in election duty who have applied for the second stage of voting through Form 12 and have been approved by the District Election Officers are advised to visit the polling facility centers to obtain the postal ballots and cast their votes.

Following the second training session, the polling officers will be informed about the order in which assembly constituencies will be addressed.

## Gender, sexual minorities highlight their demands

Gender and sexual minorities and allies have come together to stress on the government to meet their demands. They appreciated the Indian National Congress for including the issues of gender and sexual minorities in its manifesto for the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

"We, the gender and sexual minorities (GSM) and allies in Karnataka have come together with the aim of defeating the communal, corrupt, anti-democratic, anti-constitutional and anti-people BJP and extend support to the candidates of the India National Congress (INC) as they are the only party, best placed to defeat BJP-NDA candidates in the 2024 Parliamentary election," said Sana, a GSM community leader.

Congress in its manifesto has assured to expand Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution to prohibit discrimination on the ground of 'disability', 'impairment' or 'sexual orientation'. It has assured to bring a law to recognize civil unions between couples belonging to the LGBTQIA+ community.

"We came to this conclusion to save secular and constitutional democracy in India after noting the following points in favour of the GSM community in the Congress Party Manifesto (English Manifesto, Page 9)," said Nisha Gulur, a transgender leader.

Gender and sexual minorities and allies have demanded the political parties to work for the one percent reservation in government jobs and one percent reservation in all educational institutions for transgender persons. They demanded formation of National Gender and Sexual Minorities Finance and Development Corporation with an annual allocation of Rs 10,000 crore and formation of National Gender and Sexual Minorities Commission, like NCW and NHRC and one percent reservation of seats for transgender persons in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, elected by transgender community voters, like the Sangha Assembly Constituency in Sikkim. The other demand is to have a comprehensive anti-discrimination law to prevent and punish human rights violations based on sex characteristics, gender identity and sexual preference. GSM community members and allies from across districts met and held discussions.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

2024 Parliament Election

## Gaining confidence with each stride

The election campaign to support Congress candidate Mansoor Ali Khan for the Lok Sabha seat in Bengaluru Central was held in Bidarahalli of the Mahadevapura Assembly segment, on Tuesday. Congress leaders from the Mahadevapura Constituency, including former Minister H Nagesh Belathur, the President, former Municipal Corporation members, local Congress leaders, and a large number of activists participated. A campaign was conducted in Doddagubbi under the Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency. Khan expressed confidence in his victory, citing the overwhelming support of the voters for the Congress in the constituency.
The campaign saw the active participation of the Mahadevapura Constituency Congress Leaders, Belathur, Aam Admi Party Leaders and workers. Khan's message of progress and prosperity resonated well with the voters, further boosting his confidence in bringing new development to Bengaluru Central with the city's support. Khan also engaged with the members of the Devanga Sangha – Weavers community at an event held in Sampangiram Nagar. –Prakash VL

## Don't get provoked, think twice & vote for nation: Priyanka's plea

Senior Congress leader, Priyanka Gandhi, on Tuesday appealed to voters of Karnataka not to get provoked by hate speeches.

She also stressed that the voters must think twice before voting. Addressing a huge gathering in Chitradurga located in the central part of Karnataka, Priyanka Gandhi gave a call to the electorate to vote for the country and for their development too.

"What is happening in the country is wrong. The poor, middle class, labourers are being bulldozed to benefit the few. National wealth is being given away to a few people," Priyanka Gandhi underlined.

She charged that the Centre did not give drought relief to Karnataka. "The demand for AIIMS at Raichur city in north Karnataka has been made for years, but no discussion has been done on it till date.

"From the Kalasa-Banduri scheme, people will get water. The central government is denying permissions. For the Upper Bhadra Project which provides water to Tumakuru, Chikkamagaluru and Davanagere districts, the funds are not being released," Priyanka Gandhi slammed.

Congress party supporters attend a public meeting attended by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in support of candidate Sowmya Reddy at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Stadium in Bengaluru on Tuesday

She alleged that the central government had caused a Rs 62,000 crore loss in terms of funds to Karnataka.

"The Prime Minister claims that he works day and night. However, why this biased mindset? The state of Himachal Pradesh which was in crisis also did not get anything. It shows there is no concern for the nation," Priyanka Gandhi attacked.

She also announced that if the Congress was voted to power, the Kadu Golla community would get ST status.

"Minimum Support Price (MSP) will become law. There would be no GST on agricultural products. There would be insurance cover for crops where compensation would be given in 30 days in case of crop loss, if the Congress is voted to power," Priyanka Gandhi assured.

She added that during the election there is no talk about inflation, health and only provocative speeches are made and the BJP ensures the collapse of governments.

"The media says it's a master stroke and does not raise the question of erosion of democratic values," Priyanka Gandhi pointed out. –IANS

# Drought relief: Congress protests, BJP takes complaint to EC

The Congress party staged a protest at the Gandhi statue of Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Tuesday under the leadership of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah over the alleged holding back of drought relief funds by the Centre.

CM Siddaramaiah said that it was a symbolic protest to oppose the "step-motherly" treatment of the Centre towards the state. "The central government hates Karnataka. Neither Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, nor Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman responded to our demands," the CM told media persons. He said that on September 22, 2023, the memorandum for drought relief was given, and the Central team visited the state for four days.

"Karnataka is suffering from a severe drought. Out of 240 taluks, 223 are declared drought-prone. Despite this, the Central government is claiming that we delayed the submission of the memorandum," he said, adding that the state government is spending its own money on drought relief.

"We are spending Rs 36,000 crores for the guarantees in 2023–24, and for 2024–25, Rs 55,009 crore have been earmarked. There is crop loss in 48,000 lakh hectares of land. We have demanded for Rs 18,172 crore relief package for drought," the chief minister said.

He also questioned how the Central leadership could possibly be in Karnataka when they have refused to provide the state with drought aid. "I demand the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who is visiting Karnataka to release the drought relief. We had to approach the Supreme Court as there was no response from the Centre," he added.

– IANS

### 'Protest illegal, done to create negative opinion'

Meanwhile, the BJP lodged a complaint with the state's chief electoral officer over the protest by the Congress on the premises of the Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday.

The complaint was filed by a delegation led by senior BJP leader R Ashoka. "At a time when the Model Code of Conduct is in place and the matter of drought relief is pending in the SC, the protest is staged illegally against the Centre to create a negative opinion in the minds of voters. This is being done to get political benefit during elections," the BJP said in its complaint.

The party further demanded that Congress' star campaigner Randeep Singh Surjewala, CM Siddaramaiah and Dy CM DK Shivakumar should be immediately barred from campaigning.

The BJP has also demanded the suspension of chief secretary Rajneesh Goel for acting as per the directions of Congress.

# Hoteliers applaud as food-for-voters plan gets go-ahead

## High Court allows eateries to go ahead with plan to reward voters

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
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The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday allowed the Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels Association (BBHA) and others to provide complimentary food for voters on Friday. The BBHA and others have approached the High Court, seeking direction to the District Election Officer (DEO) and others to allow them to do the same.

The BBHA, in a release, has said that it is very happy with the High Court's direction allowing the hoteliers to provide complimentary food for voters. "Our objective is to increase the voting percentage in Bengaluru during the Lok Sabha elections. We are aware that the voters can afford to spend money on breakfast or lunch on the polling day, but we wanted to provide complimentary or free food on the polling day to encourage them. I want to thank the Karnataka High Court for allowing the hotels to give food to the voters," said BBHA president PC Rao.

He added that the BBHA and others approached the HC since the BBMP chief commissioner, who is the DEO, failed to respond to their letter seeking permission for this move. "As their intention is to increase the percentage of voting in the city, the honourable justice directed the DEO to allow the hoteliers to provide complimentary food to the voters on the polling day," said Krishna Bhat, an advocate for the petitioners.

It may also be recalled that, in May 2023, BBHA and Nisarga Grand Hotel approached the Karnataka HC when the BBMP chief commissioner withdrew permission given to provide complimentary food for the voters.

Expressing gratitude towards the High Court, Krishnaraj SP of Nisarga Grand Hotel said, "Some of our customers, whose children are casting votes for the first time, enquired with me whether or not Nisarga Grand Hotel is offering free breakfast on the polling day. We are offering butter dosa, ghee ladoo, and juice free of charge to those voters who cast their votes on the polling day. The voters have to just show their inked fingers," said Krishnaraj.

Additionally, Iyenger's Oven Fresh will be offering a 10 per cent discount for those who show their inked finger, a sign of fulfilling their duty.

File photo of a citizen exercising their voting rights

# 'No more borewell sinking this summer'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

here will have to struggle for water," said Shanmugha Velu, a resident.

Condemning the authorities concerned for giving permission to dig a borewell, Madhusudhan H, a resident of Ambedkar Nagar blamed the BWSSB and the KGWA for digging of borewells in and around Ambedkar Nagar.

"I complained to the BWSSB engineer but in vain. Later, I visited the police station to meet the police inspector who directed the people operating the borewell machine to halt digging," said Madhushudhan.

It is not the first time that BWSSB and KGWA issued permission letters for digging borewells around Whitefield. Bangalore Mirror published a story – Borewell diggers play hide & seek – on January 8, 2024, narrating how digging of borewells is going on without permit, wraps up when officials arrive, resumes when they leave.

Sandeep Anirudhan, coordinator - subcommittee - illegalities and violations, Whitefield Citizens Ward Committees, said Bengaluru is a notified Red Zone area by Karnataka Groundwater Authority, hence no permissions can be granted for either construction use or commercial use.

"The site in question is a construction site for a commercial PG, hence, absolutely not allowed. Both of the above conditions (construction & commercial use) bar permission. So it is a serious violation by the authority itself. This is a clear case where rogue builders are manipulating or corrupting the authorities to misuse groundwater for construction and commercial purposes, violating the laws," said Anirudhan.

He noted that as per conditions in the KGWA Act, and also listed in point 14 of the permission document itself), if any member of public objects to the borewell at any time, the given borewell permission stands automatically cancelled.

"Out of the five public borewells in Ambedkar Nagar, four have dried up due to overexploitation by PG builders. This is the last remaining functioning public borewell. There has been no Cauvery supply for more than a year, and the entire layout is dependent on this one public borewell," he added.

When contacted, BWSSB executive engineer said he had taken measures to stop the digging of borewell. "The land owner claimed to have the permission from the competent authority. I advised him to stop digging the borewell till the onset of the monsoon as there is an acute shortage of water in the city," said the executive engineer.

Meanwhile, KGWA deputy director said that permissions for digging borewells are being given based on shortage of drinking water in the respective areas.

# 'Great threat to harmony in society'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

because we have anyway taken criminal action." However, the delegation noted that as per instruction number 35 in the Election Commission's letter dated 2 January, in the Compendium of Instructions on the Model Code of Conduct 2024 at Clause 14, it is specified that the CEO or DEO (District Election Officer) or RO (Returning Officer) is required to issue notice to the star campaigner as well as the political party when there is any violation and release it publicly.

A letter has also been written to the Election Commission. It reads, "Mr Modi's inflammatory speeches have wide social impact and pose a great threat to the harmony in society. It is imperative that the Election Commission takes swift and appropriate action against him. Any failure to do so will raise serious doubts over the independence and credibility of the Commission. That an individual holding the office of the PM is brazenly appealing to communal sentiments of the majoritarian population by dehumanising another community is deeply concerning. It threatens to shake the roots of our democracy and hence, the Election Commission must view this with seriousness."

The letter demanded the following be done by the ECI: 'Disqualification of Narendra Modi from contesting in the General Assembly Elections 2024 and an immediate ban on his campaign as a punitive measure for violating the Model Code of Conduct and the Representation of People Act, 1951. Strict action including the disqualification of BJP candidates Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya and Dr Manna Lal Rawat who were present on stage during the speech, and issuing prohibitory orders against their campaign. Immediate initiation of criminal action against Modi for violation of the IPC and Representation of People Act, 1951...'


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## personal

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I,** Hemanth R, S/o Ramu N, aged 21 years and R/o No. 198, 6th Cross, Hari Shankar Matta, Manorayanapalya, R T Nagar Post, Bangalore 560032, hereby affirm that my mother's name is Gowramma, wife of Ramu N, as stated in Aadhaar Card and all other documents. However, in my 10th marks card mention -ing her name as Gowri R, it's clarified that both names refer to the same individual. There - fore, Gowramma R and Gowri R are one and the same person

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**I,** VASANTHA KUMAR T, Residing at No. 222, Iggalur, Opp Bus Depo, Chandapura, Bengaluru Rural, Karnataka Pin 560099, have changed my name to VASANTH KUMAR T, vide affidavit dated 19/04/2024, sworn before notary VENKATARAJU H G, Bengaluru.

**I,** Rithvik Shanker, R/o of Flat 7B East , Klassik Benchmark, Kalena Agrahara , Bannerghatta Rd, Bengaluru 560076, have changed my name to Rithvik Jai Shanker.

**I,** PARAPPA SHINTRI residing at No.15/1, 2nd Main, 10th Cross, Hegganahalli Cross, Gajanan Nagar, Bangalore-560091 have changed my name to PARAPPA GANGAPPA SHINTRI, vide affidavit dated 02.04.2024 sworn befor notary V. Anjanappa, B.lore.

**I,** Anthony Bernard Moraes R/o C G07 Sekhar Hyde Park, 20/2 Nagondanahalli, Whitefield, Bengaluru 66. have changed my minor son\'s name from Dominic Moraes to Dominic Anthony Moraes. Vide Affidavit Dt: 20/4/2024 notary Yankoba

**I** MOHAMMED ZUHAIB SHARIFF S/O JAFFER SHARIFF R/O JAYANAGAR BANGALORE HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MOHAMMED ALMAN SHARIFF TO MOHAMMED ZUHAIB SHARIFF FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.


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**I,** Swastika Saxena, D/o. Parag Saxena, R/o. A 2104, Cedar Bldg., Greenage Salarpuria Sattva Apts., Bommanahalli, B'lore-560068, have changed my name to VANYA SAXENA vide affidavit Dtd: 20/04/24 before Notary M. Rajendra, B'lore.

**I** Naman Kumar S/o Mahaveer Chand R/o No.22/2, Aashirvad Apartment, Rangarao road, Shankarapuram, Bengaluru 56004 have changed my name to Naman Balar Affidavit Dt.23/04 /2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

**I,RAJA** Chikkanarasaiah S/o Chikkanarasaiah R/o #37 Bannikuppe, Ganakullaua Post Ramanagar-562109 have changed my name to Raju Bannikuppe Chikkanarasaiah for all purposes.

**I,** Maniar Bhavik Rajeshbhai S/O, Rajesh Chandrakant Maniar R/o A201, Sun Sky Park, Sardar Patel Ring Road, Ambli, Bopal, Ahmedabad Rural - 380058, Gujarat have changed my name to Bhavik Rajesh Maniar for all purposes.

**I** Bharthi R Chhabria W/O, Ramesh M Chhabria R/o B1303, The Gardens, Eta Constructions, Binny Mill Circle, Magadi Road, Bangalore 560023 have changed my name to Bharathi R Chhabria.

**I** Roopa M w/o A Ravish Rao r/o #65 3rd Main Near Prashanth Ganapathi Temple prashanth nagar B'luru 560079 have changed my name to Roopa Rao A for all purposes

**I** Dinesh S/o Muniswamy R/o No 14/7 4th Cross, Xavier Layout Y.g Palaya Angenaya Street Bangalore-560047, have changed my name to Dinesh Muniswamy for all purposes.

**I** Dixit Kumar S/O, Babu Lal R/o No.83/105 Flat No. 2032nd Main 8th Cross Baldota Nihara Elite Chamrajpet Bangalore have changed my name to Dixit B Jain.

**I** Lakshminarayanapuram Vaidyanathan Mohanambal W/O, Late K Gopalakrishnan R/o No 1333,1st H Main Road Girinagar, Bangalore 560085 have changed my name to L V Mohana Gopal


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**HEALTH TIP:** Magnesium can also help you lower your cortisol (stress) levels which makes it easier for the body to calm down

Try to go to bed and wake up at the same time every day, even on weekends

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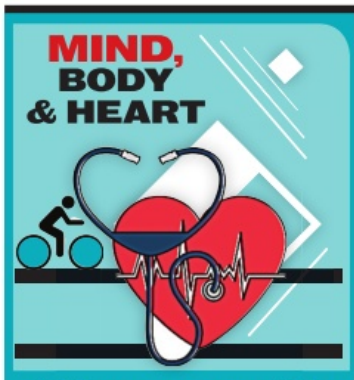


## All you need to know about...

*Time in nature*

**Good for health**
Do you enjoy your time spent in nature? It may help lower inflammation levels, linked to the risk of heart disease and diabetes, finds a study.
While previous research linked exposure to the natural world with better mental and physical health, the new study published in the journal Brain, Behavior, and Immunity focused on inflammation.

**Inflammation free**
The study showed that frequent positive contact with nature was independently associated with lower circulating levels of three different indicators of inflammation -- "interleukin-6 (IL-6), a cytokine closely involved in the regulation of systemic inflammatory processes; C-reactive protein, which is synthesised in response to stimulation by IL-6 and other cytokines; and fibrinogen, a soluble protein present in blood plasma -- were measured, and structural equation modelling was conducted to detect the association between nature engagement and the three biomarkers."
"By focusing on these inflammation markers, the study provides a biological explanation for why nature might improve health," said the team led by Anthony Ong, Professor in the Department of Psychology at Cornell University, US.
The study particularly showed "how it (enjoying nature) might prevent or manage diseases linked to chronic inflammation, like heart disease and diabetes."

**Quality matters**
"It's not just about how often people spend time outdoors, but also the quality of their experiences," said Ong.
Even when controlling for other variables such as demographics, health behaviours, medication, and general well-being, Ong said his team found that reduced levels of inflammation were consistently associated with more frequent positive contact with nature. **-IANS**

# New mom on board

## Here are 5 essential safety tips you might be ignoring

Seeing the two pink lines on the pregnancy tracker is a whole new feeling, isn't it? However, amidst the excitement of bringing a new life into this world, it's easy for new moms to overlook certain safety concerns that are crucial for both their and their baby's well-being.

"Amidst the joy and excitement of welcoming a new family member, it's easy to overlook some essential safety precautions," says Madurai based gynecologist Dr Divya Siva. From baby-proofing your home to ensuring safe sleep practices, here are some important safety concerns:

### Sleep practices
It's essential to create a safe sleep environment by placing the baby on a firm mattress in a crib or bassinet, without any loose bedding, pillows, or toys that could pose a suffocation hazard.

### Car seat safety
Proper use of car seats is important for ensuring the safety of infants during travel. From incorrect installation to improper harnessing, there are several common mistakes that can compromise the effectiveness of a car seat in the event of a crash.

### Babyproofed home
Conducting a thorough babyproofing assessment of the home and addressing any potential hazards can significantly reduce the risk of accidents or injuries. Areas that require babyproofing are securing furniture to prevent tipping, covering electrical outlets, and keeping small objects out of reach to prevent choking.

### Around water
Drowning is a leading cause of accidental death among young children, making water safety a crucial concern for new moms. While it's essential to never leave a baby unattended near water, including bathtubs, pools, or even buckets, many new moms ignore the dangers or become distracted during water-related activities.

### Handling of breast milk and formula
Improper storage or handling of breast milk and formula can lead to contamination and potentially harmful bacteria, compromising the baby's health. New moms should educate themselves on safe practices for expressing, storing, and warming breast milk, as well as preparing and storing formula to ensure optimal safety and nutrition for their baby.
There is more to this. Co-founder of AreoVeda, Taru Mayur shares some more tips.

### Mood swings
The postpartum period can be challenging because of the hormonal fluctuations and mood changes the new moms go through. A study published in 2017 suggested that over 22% of new mothers report postpartum depression in India. While this statistic can be scary, the real picture is more worrisome. "Many incidences of depression go unrecognised and unreported. This is compounded by the fact that minor mood fluctuations that do not meet the diagnostic category of depression often go unnoticed," says Taru who also shares a sigh of relief that the help is readily available which the mothers should avail.

"Owing to the growing awareness of this issue, access to mental health care is easier than ever. If you are a family member of a new mother, it is vital to be cognizant of these symptoms and to make her feel loved, comfortable and cared for. The smallest gesture can go a long way in ensuring better mental health," she adds.

### Skincare
Another aspect of self-care during and after pregnancy is paying adequate attention to one's skin and body. While the stress of delivery and subsequently caring for a newborn may force new mothers to ignore their skincare to the bottom of the priority list, there is an alarming reason why it is more important than ever. A study from the Environmental Working Group (EWG) revealed that there are over 200 kinds of toxins present in the cord blood, and these may have disastrous consequences for the baby and the mother. A large proportion of these pollutants are present in skincare products and enter the bloodstream through the skin. "Therefore, it is of utmost importance to opt for clean, natural ingredients and avoid harsh chemicals so that one can help soothe and nourish the delicate postpartum skin while also ensuring the safety of both the mother and the nursing infant," explains Taru.

### Use Safe And Clean Ingredients
Given the impact of chemicals and toxins, the safety of the products used by new mothers and their infants has become a pressing concern. "From personal care items mentioned above to household cleaners, exposure to potentially toxic ingredients can be very harmful," warns the expert who suggests that the new moms are flooded with an array of options, making it challenging to come to a conclusion on safe and effective products to trust. "One should be educated about reading labels, understanding ingredient lists," she adds. **Kayal Arivalan, Femina**

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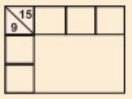
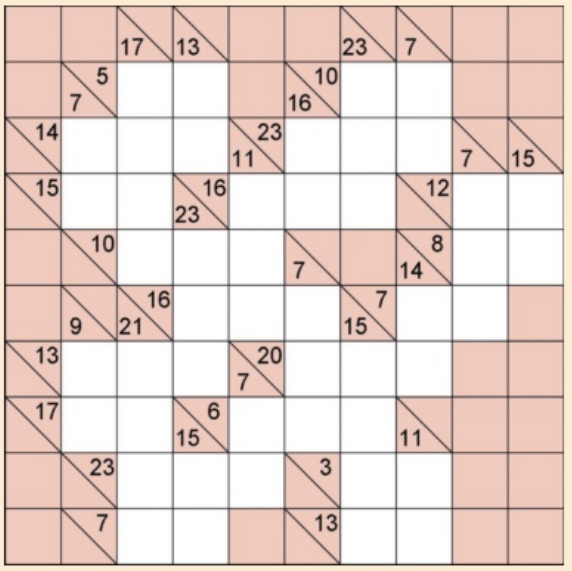
## Kakuro

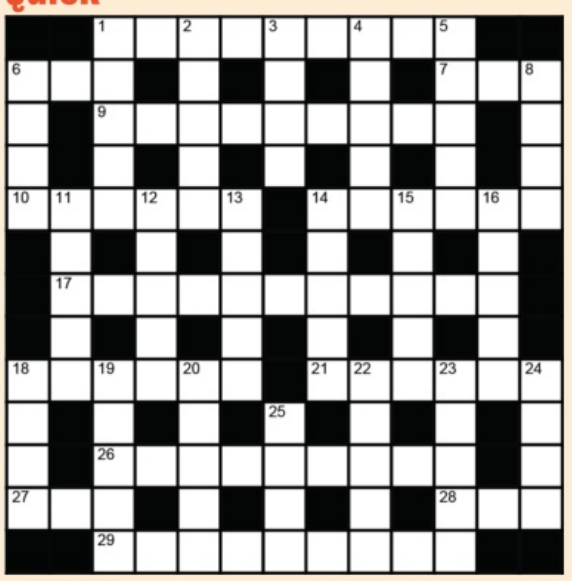


The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

1 Unseeable, inconspicuous (9)
6 Metal container (3)
7 16 in Roman numerals (3)
9 Former Karnataka Chief Minister who went on to become Prime Minister of India (4,5)
10 Dwell or stay (6)
14 Exhausts (4,2)
17 Exacting revenge (7,4)
18 Commences (6)
21 Arid area (6)
26 An intricate plot? (9)
27 Comparative words (2,1)
28 ___ a bet : deposit as a wager? (3)
29 Type of pasta (9)

**DOWN**

1 Great Asian river (5)
2 Intensely bright (5)
3 Long story (4)
4 Vessels, dishes or cups (5)
5 School tests (5)
6 Burn slightly (4)
8 The game __ __ : you are exposed (2,2)
11 Number of performers in an octet (5)
12 Bury in a grave (5)
13 Leaves (5)
14 Exhorted (5)
15 Elrond and co in Lord of The Rings (5)
16 Relating to a forearm bone (5)
18 Fizzy drink (4)
19 Assumed name (5)
20 Indian drum (5)
22 Acclaim, dazzling effect or success (5)
23 Intestinal bacteria (1,4)
24 Serving plate (4)
25 Flying insect (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: H EQUALS P**

YFMWBT FMHHTWV IR KUVST-WUWB MWN SFTW VSMGSUWB M NUMKXBOT CUSF SFT HTX-HKT CFX MGT NXUWB VXLTS-FUWB RXO NXW'S ITKUTZT UV GUBFS.

### Linemaro

If I had to choose between breathing or loving you, I would say "I love you" with my last breath

### Mindchow

The highest appreciation is not to express words, but to live by them

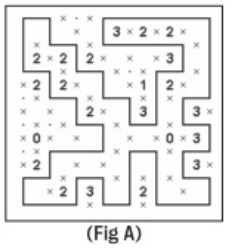
### Joke of the day

I've got a washboard stomach. It's just that it has about two months of laundry on top of it

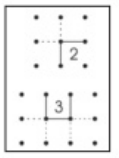
## Loop

**Rules**

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

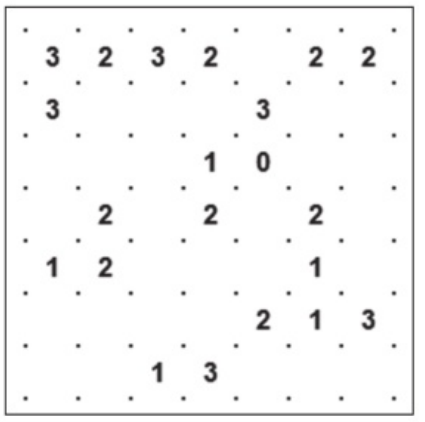


(Fig B) Not Allowed

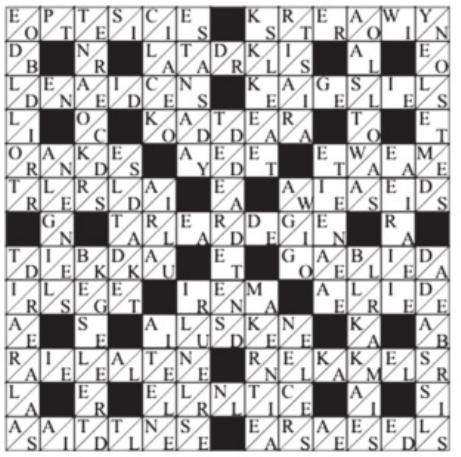
**How to begin:**

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 M | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | | | | |
| 7 | | | | |
| 8 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | |

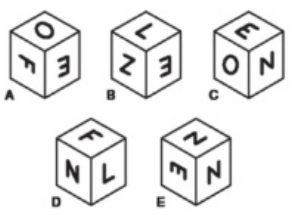
**ACROSS**

1 Mg SOS; 6 E teen;
7 Alien; 8 Oiler;
9 Eat in

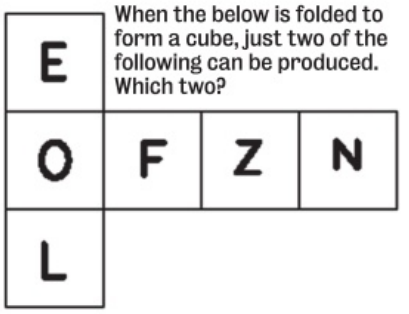
**DOWN**

1 Tarts; 2 Em Eel;
3 No ion; 4 ie Gin;
5 Tesla

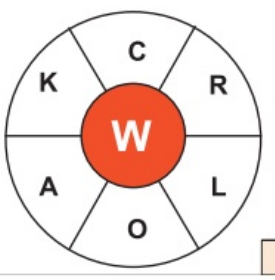
## Mensapuzzle



When the below is folded to form a cube, just two of the following can be produced. Which two?



## Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 6 | | | | 3 | | |
| 4 | | 9 | 5 | | 1 | 8 | | 7 |
| | 1 | | | | | | 5 | |
| | | 8 | 9 | | 5 | 2 | | |
| 6 | | | 2 | | 4 | | | 1 |
| | | 3 | 1 | | 8 | 6 | | |
| | 2 | | | | | | 7 | |
| 8 | | 7 | 3 | | 6 | 4 | | 9 |
| | | 4 | | | | 1 | | |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

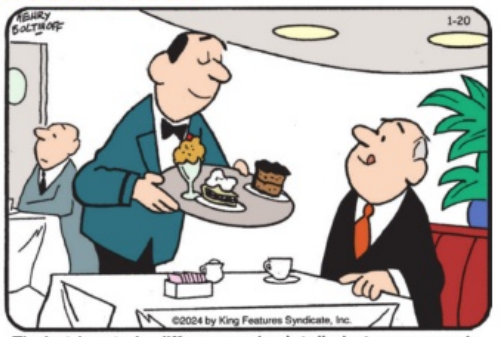
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 5
2 7 7 7

Medium = 1
1 2 7 9

Hard = 4
2 3 6 3

## Hocusfocus




Find at least six differences in details between panels.

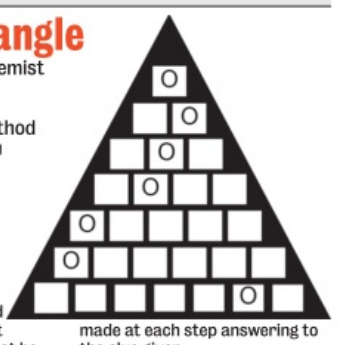
**Differences:** 1. Pie is moved. 2. Plant is taller. 3. Table is longer. 4. Mouth is open. 5. Lapel is different. 6. Spoon is added.

## Riddler

What connects these four things?
Ape, mime, mirror, parrot

## Alpha triangle

1 Oxygen for the chemist
2 Infinitive word
3 Putrefy
4 Memorization method
5 Expound at length
6 Elaborate
7 Washington VIP



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

# COMICS

## Bizarrotrip

## Popeye

## Diamond Lil

HEH, SIRI, WHAT DO I NEED TO MAKE A WOMAN'S HEART SING?
OK, HERE'S WHAT I FOUND...
A SCALPEL, A RIB SPREADER AND A KARAOKE MACHINE
©2024 creators.com V20
www.creators.com
Bartlett

## Hart of the city

## Crankshaft

## Mutts

# WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be at ease after a messy situation. Your vitality may help you implement some tough decisions in your parental business, which may help expand it. You may help needy people around you, which may increase your social respect. Students might be certain when choosing their career options.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may face health issues, which may make you impatient. You are also advised to control your short-tempered nature. You may spend your hard-earned money on buying worthless stuff, which may affect your savings. Lovebirds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics to avoid breakups and maintain a healthy relationship.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may meet some influential people who may help you in the progress of your work and build a strong network. You may prepare yourself to implement new ideas in your work, and you will plan to invest more capital in your business, which may give you financial gains in the near future. In terms of domestic life, you will be busy with family get-togethers and social events.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
Today, your mother's health may be good. You may enjoy work, and you may get rewards for your hard work. Your social respect may be increased now. Overworking your mind may make you tired, and due to your workload, you may not be able to attend some family events.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be satisfied with work, and you may plan for a short work-related trip. You may also visit some religious places to maintain your inner peace. Your teachers or well-wishers may show you the right path, which may give you clarity regarding your goals.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel dull, and you may have some health issues. You are advised to postpone making investments in the business as you are likely to face losses in it. Your gains may likely be converted into losses. It is also advised not to start a new venture.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel good, and domestic harmony may make you happy. You may meet some influential people to get some benefits on the job front. You may perform well in your job, and you may expect some rewards in terms of promotions. Disputes over inherited property are likely to settle now.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be healthy, and you may be able to focus on your goals. Your performance may be very good at work, your boss may be happy with you, and you may get some important responsibilities at work. You may hear good news in any legal matter. You are likely to control your opponents and business rivals.

**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may prefer gaining knowledge and may understand the value of intellectual assets. Controlling your short temper may help you perform your task smoothly. There may be some chances for smooth earnings, which may give you comfort in the workflow. You are advised to be careful before making new investments in assets. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be dissatisfied. You may have some sort of detachment from your responsibilities, which may make you confused. You are advised to be practical in your work to ensure its timely completion. You may also be taking care of your parents. If you're planning to migrate somewhere, it is advised to postpone it for a few days.

**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today is a positive day for you; you may get success from your hard work on the professional and domestic front. You may have good focus, and you may complete your work on time, which can improve your self-confidence. You may also expect some work-related short trips, which may be beneficial in the near future in terms of your network.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be busy with domestic issues. You may spend money on buying artefacts or household items. You are advised to control spending on worthless stuff; otherwise, it may attract negative energy into the house. You are also advised to control your harsh language with the people around you.

## KIDZONE

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Prarthana Ganesh, 12 Years, The Brigade School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

# SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
28 + [ (5 – 9)² ÷ 8 ] – 4^7 =
28 + [ (– 4)² ÷ 8 ] – 4^7 =
28 + [ 16 ÷ 8 ] – 4^7 =
28 + [ 16 x 1/8 ] – 4^7 =
28 + [ 16/8 ] – 4^7 =
28 + 2 – 28 =
30 – 28 = 2

**BULL'S EYE**
claw, cowl, craw, crawl, crow, walk, WARLOCK, work, wrack

**RIDDLER**
They all mean to imitate

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | M | O | G | S |
| T | E | N | E | T |
| A | L | I | N | E |
| R | E | O | I | L |
| T | E | N | I | A |

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | P | T | I | C | S | | S | T | R | A | I | N | | |
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| A | | E | | E | R | N | I | E | | A | | I | | |
| R | E | L | A | T | E | | R | E | A | M | E | R | | |
| A | | E | | A | U | D | E | N | | A | | B | | |
| I | S | E | E | | R | N | A | | A | L | E | E | | |
| T | I | K | K | A | | E | | G | E | L | I | D | | |
| | G | | A | L | A | D | I | N | | R | | | | |
| T | E | S | L | A | | A | W | I | S | E | D | | | |
| O | A | K | S | | Y | E | T | | T | W | E | E | | |
| D | E | A | D | E | N | | E | A | G | L | E | S | | |
| L | C | O | D | D | E | R | | O | | T | | | | |
| A | | M | | I | | A | | L | | M | | U | | |
| H | | D | E | V | E | G | O | W | D | A | | S | | |
| C | A | N | | I | | A | | O | | X | V | I | | |
| | I | N | V | I | S | I | B | L | E | | | | | |
| | | S | P | A | G | H | E | T | T | I | | | | |

**QUICK**

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**MENSA PUZZLE**
A and E.

**QUOTE UNCODE**
Change happens by listening and then starting a dialogue with the people who are doing something you don't believe is right.

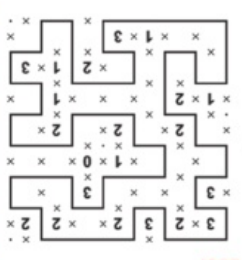
**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| 8 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 9 |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 6 |
| 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 5 |
| 6 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 1 |
| 1 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| 7 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| 4 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| 5 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 2 |

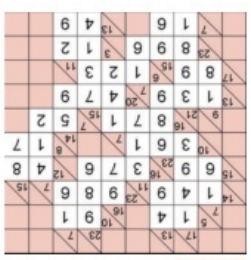
**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
0 , To, Rot, Rote, Orate, Ornate, Senator.

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
7 + 7 – 2 – 7 = 5
Medium
7 – 9 + 1 + 2 = 1
Hard
3 x 2 / 6 + 3 = 4

**LOOP**



**KAKURO**



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# No chemistry

## Anne Hathaway exposes outdated 'make out' tests in Hollywood casting

Oscar-winning actor Anne Hathaway has opened up about a certain practice she faced early in her film career that she now finds outdated and uncomfortable. The 'Les Miserables' actor revealed that during the 2000s, it was common for casting directors to ask actors to engage in "make out" sessions with multiple potential co-stars to test for on-screen chemistry, according to E! News.

"It was considered normal to ask an actor to make out with other actors to test for chemistry, which is actually the worst way to do it," the 41-year-old actor disclosed in an interview obtained by E! News.

Hathaway, known for her roles in films like 'The Princess Diaries' and 'The Devil Wears Prada,' described feeling uneasy about the situation. "I thought, 'Is there something wrong with me?' because I wasn't excited. I thought it sounded gross," she recalled.

Despite her discomfort, the actor felt pressure to comply, fearing being labelled as "difficult." "It wasn't a power play," she clarified adding, "No one was trying to be awful or hurt me. It was just a very different time, and now we know better."

Now with more experience and influence in the industry, Hathaway is advocating for change. As a producer on her latest project, 'The Idea of You,' she ensured that such practices were left behind. The film, based on Robinne Lee's novel, follows the romance between a 40-year-old art gallery owner, Solene (played by Hathaway), and Hayes Campbell (Nicholas Galitzine), the 24-year-old lead singer of a boy band.

When casting for the role opposite her, Hathaway didn't need a kiss test to confirm Galitzine's suitability.

"I remember laughing when Nick walked in because he was so ridiculously perfect for the part," she shared in an interview obtained by E! News. **-ANI**

## SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

### Debut in Sandalwood

Renowned South Indian actress Aishwarya Rajesh makes her debut in Sandalwood with the highly anticipated 'Uttarakaanda', starring Karunada Chakravarthy Dr. Shivarajkumar and Natarakshasa Daali Dhananjaya.

Aishwarya is playing the main lead role called Durgi' in opposite Daali Dhananjaya. She took to X (formerly Twitter) to express her happiness: What more can I ask for... My first #Kannada film #Uttarakanda.

The first schedule of Uttarakaanda is currently underway in Bijapur and its surroundings.

This action drama is directed by Rohit Padaki and produced by Karthik Gowda and Yogi G Raj under the banner KRG Studios.

According to sources, Dhananjay is playing Gabru Satya in the movie that is expected to showcase beautiful locations, the dialect and culture of North Karnataka.

### Voting power

Actor Rajesh Adiga, who debuted in Kannada film industry with the movie Josh in 2009, has sung a rap song – Vote Namma Power – along with Aishwarya Rangarajan to motivate people to exercise their franchise in the Lok Sabha elections scheduled for April 26 and May 7 in Karnataka.

The song, presented by Madhyama Aneka, was released at Renukamba Preview Theater on Monday.

"It can become the favourite rap song for those who are exercising their franchise for the first time. Our objective is to increase the percentage of voting in the state," said Rajesh Adiga.

The song begins with a description of democracy and how it is important for all to cast their votes to elect the right government that can work for the welfare of people.

"We made this song based on some important features of the Constitution," said director Raj Gopi.

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Renault recommends Castrol
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